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pipeline explosion

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By Albert Akpor, JIMOH BABATUNDE,
LUKA BINNIYAT, DANIEL ETEGHE,
Evelyn Usman, EMMA ARUBI & Ifeanyi
Okolie

LAGOS — THERE was bloodbath in
Badagry, Lagos, yesterday, after a
group of heavily armed soldiers from the
242 Recce Battalion, Ibereko, Badagry,
took over strategic locations in the
ancient town maiming and killing any
policeman in sight.

This came as not less than 20 persons
were feared dead in a pipeline inferno at

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[oaksimeone](#) Does
these cameras use electricity or
do they run on batteries? I am
wondering how effective they
will be when there is hardly
power in the country. O I forgot,
generators.

Eko-Ovwore-Amukpe community in Okpe council area of Delta State. The incident which occurred near Jesse by the River Ethiope bank was reminiscent of the Atigwo-Jesse pipeline fire conflagration of October 17, 1998 that left thousands of persons dead.

Vanguard learnt that the Divisional Police Officer in Badagry, Chief Superintendent of Police, CSP Saliu Samson; his Divisional Crime Officer, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, DSP, whose name could not be ascertained at press time, who were reportedly on their way to appeal for calm were shot dead.

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[Fidelis Anichukwu](#) pls

mr president we need fresh blood in your carbinet, the list i saw here is the same people that is there for over four decades, rtd cols, generals thier wifes children and brothers, what of the...

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The DPO's orderly and driver were reported to be critically wounded during the encounter and are receiving treatment at the intensive unit of an undisclosed hospital.

Two police patrol vehicles belonging to the Rapid Response Squad, RRS, were set ablaze while their occupants were chased and shot dead. As at 2.30 p.m., yesterday, corpses of police officers littered the Iberepo roundabout while the rampaging soldiers were spotted with dangerous weapons scouting for police men.

Alleged reprisal attack

Eyewitnesses placed the number of

Policeman rapes,
impregnates
12-yr-old

Banned for life!
NFF wields big
stick on Jalla,
others



Remo Mr. Alao Akala

deserves our collective pity cos his case can be likened to that of a drowning-man and as the Yoruba proverb goes "A j'ekuru nwa eni kun ra". He would rather wish he leaves in chaos...

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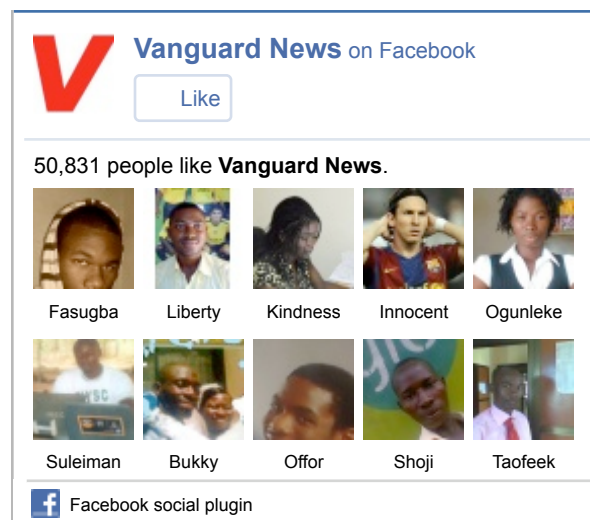
community on **DISQUS**

policemen killed in an alleged reprisal attack by the soldiers at eight.

Vanguard gathered that some police men and their families residing in Ibereko barracks were chased out and seriously wounded.

Impeccable sources said trouble started, Sunday night, after a soldier in mufti who was escorting goods from the Seme border was accosted by a police officer attached to RRS who demanded to search the vehicle.

It was learnt that the unidentified soldier had challenged the policeman and threatened to disarm him if he did not allow the vehicle free way, and that this



prompted the trigger- happy policeman to shoot at him at close range.

The soldier reportedly slumped and died on the spot. It was gathered that four of the policemen involved in the shooting incident were promptly arrested by police authorities while members of the OP Messa were mobilized to patrol the area to avoid possible break down of law and order.

The story took a different dimension after news of the killing of the soldier filtered into the Ibereko barracks. Some soldiers mobilized as early as 9 a.m., yesterday, and began to attack any policeman in sight contrary to a



non-violence order given them by the commander of the barracks, Colonel Nabasa. Some men suspected to be soldiers allegedly stormed one of the new generation banks in Badagry where they attacked some policemen attached to the bank.

Vanguard learnt that the soldiers moved to the roads where they searched every vehicle going into and coming out of Badagry, apparently looking for policemen in uniform.

It was gathered that on learning of the attacks, the late DPO reportedly suggested to his DCO that they should meet with the Commandant of the Army

Barracks for peace talks.

Vanguard gathered that they were shot dead when some soldiers saw their police van approaching the barracks. As at 3.30 pm yesterday, unconfirmed reports said some soldiers were still on rampage searching for Policemen to deal with in the area.

Tension in the area

Meanwhile, tension has heightened in the area as some members of the Police Mobile Unit are threatening to embark on full scale war with the soldiers over the killing of their members.

Vanguard learnt that the Police high command in Abuja has issued a directive to all the Mobile Police Commanders to maintain the peace while the authorities are reportedly meeting to iron out the problem.

Contacted, the Force Public Relations officer, DCP Olusola Amore, said he was yet to get details of the clash noting:

“Let me talk to the CP Lagos then I will be in a better position to react to the matter.” But his counterpart in the Army, Lieutenant Colonel Kayode Ogunsanya, of the 81 Division said the situation had been brought under control stressing

that it will be thoroughly investigated.

Ogunsanya said: “The situation is under control and I can assure you that the cause of the clash will be thoroughly investigated.”

It would be recalled that a similar incident took place on October 4, 2005 at Ojuelegba area of Lagos State during which rampaging soldiers killed no fewer than five policemen while the area Command headquarters was razed. Sixty vehicles including twenty police jeeps were set ablaze and 34 detainees set free from the police cell by the soldiers.

NNPC pipeline kills 20 in Sapele

Over 20 persons were yesterday morning feared dead in a pipeline inferno at Eko-Ovwore-Amukpe community in Okpe council area of Delta State.

The incident which occurred near Jesse by the River Ethiope bank was reminiscent of the Atigwo- Jesse pipeline fire conflagration of October 17, 1998 that left thousands of persons dead.

This came even as an indigene of Jesse told newsmen that the incident had nothing to do with them as they had since learnt their lessons.

An eye witness told Vanguard that the

fire started in yet to be ascertained circumstances, with a loud bang and heavy fog, followed by heavy flame, adding that it allegedly killed all those working on their farm lands, fish ponds/river, sand dredgers/ divers.

He said that those scooping fuel from the burst pipes as well as the new bridge across river Ethiopie were also burnt.

An indigene of Owore-Amukpe community who simply identified himself as Mr. Sunny said staff of NNPC were already at the site of the fire battling to put it off and effect immediate repairs to the broken pipeline.

He appealed to the government to despatch relief materials to Owore Community stressing that they no longer had safe drinking water as their farm lands has been devastated by spilled and refined fuel.

Delta State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, ASP Charles Muka, confirmed the fire explosion but gave no detail, promising to do so later.

Two perish in Kaduna plane crash

A 10-seater aircraft with number plate N364 UZ, owned by Shoreline International company, crashed on a farm at Barakallahu, close to the National Open University, Kaduna,

about four kilometres north of Kaduna metropolis around 12 noon yesterday.

Two of the crew members, a Briton and a Nigerian, yet to be named, were burnt to death in the crash after the plane burst into flames thirty minutes when it came down. It had taken off a few seconds earlier for test-running from the old Kaduna airport..

Director-General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, NCAA, Dr. Harold Demuren, who confirmed the crash, said the ill-fated aircraft was American-registered, adding that it was sold to the new owners by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, IITA,

Ibadan.

He said the twin-engine turboprop Beechcraft 350 aircraft was on a single pilot flight when the crash occurred.

When newsmen rushed to the site of the accident, an hour later, before fire fighters arrived the scene, the traumatised owner of the farm, Mohammed Musa, said: “I was working on the farm with my son, when I saw and heard the noisy sound of a plane very low and approaching the ground. Then it crashed with a bang.

“I ran to the plane, to see if I could rescue the occupants. I tried to break open the glass of the door with my hoe.

But it was a fruitless effort as the hoe bounced back, as if I was hitting a wall. Then a soldier, who was on patrol, ran to the scene. He used the boot of his gun on the door, but it was also a fruitless effort.

Breaking open the door

“Both of us made more effort, but the door would not break open. There were two people inside. We could see them through the glass windows. We kept on trying, with no success. Then we notice that smoke was coming from the plane.

We could see the two people in the plane waving frantically. The smoke was getting worse. We kept on hammering

on the door. But the soldier said that we had to leave, that the plane would soon explode.

“So we ran back. And from where we stood, we could see them waving the more. Then the plane burst into flames. It burnt for over an hour. They were long dead before you people came. If enough help had arrived in say, 30 minutes, these people would have been alive.”

Another young man, who simply said he was Kevin, and a student of the Open University, told newsman: “I saw the aircraft wobbling in the air right above our school. I am surprised it did not

crash there.”




Soon after the Fire Brigade arrived in two fire-fighting vehicles. The fire men sprung into action and started one of the vehicles, with the other parked. But its prayed the burning plane with water for just a few seconds and the pumps failed.


The Public Relations Officer of DANA, Bashir Chedi, maintainers of the aircraft, told journalists that the plane belonged to Shoreline International Oil Company that had come for maintenance, adding that after the maintenance, it was taken for a test-run when it crashed.

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them clean and brief.

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**frank** 37 minutes ago


Nigerians, lets grow from one stage to another, we are still where we are, nobody should be above the law , some idiots think they are above the law, so they can kill and get away with that,i remembered when a some police men killed a Nigerian who just came in from USA, thinking that he is Mr nobody, because of the money he had with him. Now why shooting instead of dialogue like sensible men, i still believe that our orientation is very bad, fed govt should educate the forces properly. Responsible police , custom, army, Navy officers should be allowed to carry out their duties in as much as they respect people and the law. Escortion of good without some document from appropriate quarter is very bad because some dubious element can pave way for elegal arms and drugs.

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**pastor** 2 hours ago

Na wao. Ndia egbue ndia!


[Like](#) [Reply](#)

**Achumnu Samuel** 2 hours ago

i think this is a calculated attempt by the police men to do such rubbish.any way,

let us maintain peace and order.please let the govt try to repair the burst pipelines.

Like Reply



Dennis Umeh

4 hours ago

Life is so cheap in Nigeria. If it is not the Talibans butchering the "unbelievers" in the North, the soldiers and police and their brothers, the armed robbers, are there. Ants are safer than Nigerians.

Den

2 people liked this. Like Reply



bobo I

5 hours ago

Buhari again!!

Like Reply




Larry Malik

5 hours ago

rip...to all who died in both incidents...

i had military training as an ex officer, but this is highly appalling...there should be room for professionalism. that is why u are military men for crying out loud! make i go drink beer

Like Reply



Rose W Rose

5 hours ago

Well its good as the soldier took the revenge on the so called police men

because they do act stupidly to embarrass the civilian on the street and lie to arrest the innocent people just to collect money from them. Nigeria police are full of shit and most of them are not educated..I have witness so many stupid act of the Nigeria police when i am in Nigeria which they arrest any how just to make money from people. I have been to many countries in Oversea which there police dress decently clean and they dont stop people anyhow and they dont carry guns to attack anyone on the street that i will shot you or this/that...We Nigerian do you people think we need police to protect us? because they never protect us all they are after is to collect money from any body on the street and lie to a crime they did not commit. To arrest army robbers they cant do that so why do we need them to protect us...I HATE NIGERIA POLICE AND I AM LOOKING FOR ANY ONE OF THEM THAT WILL ACT STUPIDLY WHEN I AM IN NIGERIA.

3 people liked this.

Like

Reply

**Matthews I** 6 hours ago

Situation whereby law enforcement agencies personnel fall short of the law they are meant to defend portend grave consequences for society. This case scenario therefore calls for serious investigation and bringing of errant officers on either side to book.

In the first place, it is sad that the soldier who spurred the ugly situation lost his life in the ensuing fracas with the police. All the same, his identity should be unveiled. One is uncertain if his brief as an army escorting entails vehicles from Seme into the country. The act in itself, one supposes, constitutes a criminal offence against the deceased. Furthermore, there is need to ascertain from his unit head/commandant if he sought and/or was granted permission for that task (escorting vehicles into the country). If not, it is glaringly an established case of dereliction of duties with possible connivance. Soldiers should never have been left loosed and uncounsed for let alone those armed who went on rampage.


On the part of the police, it is good that officers primarily involved in the argument that led to the reprisal attack by the yet to be identified soldiers have been put under arrest. One feels that the army, on its part, should reciprocate

by issuing order to the commandant of the Iberepo unit to order a parade of men and officers of that unit in a bid to identify those involved in this saga. No doubt, the Adjutant of that section should have, by now, been doing all within his purview to ensure that this case is not swept under the carpet.

There is need to purge the personnel of the nation's security agencies of arbitrariness seemingly leading to break down of law and order. This is not a banana republic. I rest my case.

1 person liked this.

Like Reply




Emmanuel Enyinnaya 6 hours ago

Nigerian police should learn to respect people. Why did that stupid policeman shoot at him. It serves them right. I think people should learn to respect military men. Soldiers should know that they have a responsibility to protect lives. They should imbibe discipline and good professional conduct.

1 person liked this.

Like Reply



saint blove 7 hours ago

NIGERIAN FORCES SHOULD LEARN TO RESPECT EACH OTHER .SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AND PROTECT US .MAKE USE OF YOUR GUN AS AT WHEN NECESSARY.FIGHT AGAINST CRIME NOT BY SHOOTING PEOPLE WITHOUT MAKING PROPER INVESTIGATIONS .YOU PEOPLE SHOULD JOIN GEJ TO MOVE OUR COUNTRY FORWARD.

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